

H-OFLD Old Field Weedy Herbaceous Vegetation

Associations and Alliances

Common Species

Conium maculatum
Kochia scoparia
Bromus japonicus
Rumex altissimus
Ambrosia psilostachya
Bromus inermis
Bromus tectorum
Andropogon gerardii
Pascopyrum smithii

Description

This type represents disturbed areas at FOLS including the historic dump site, the oxbow island, and the low-lying areas along the Pawnee River floodplain. The vegetation for this site was highly variable but was generally dominated by mid-height introduced grasses (0.5 m) and tall annual forbs (to 2 m). Local patches may have contained small early successional trees (such as *Gleditsia triacanthos*) and native grasses (including *Andropogon gerardii*, *Pascopyrum smithii*, and *Sporobolus asper*). This type usually had a high percentage of annual species cover (> 30%) and a high percentage of forb cover relative to surrounding fields mapped as either smooth brome or restored grassland. Depending on the species composition three subtypes were identified at FOLS. These included: *Conium maculatum* Subtype (Poison Hemlock Subtype), *Kochia scoparia* Subtype (Mexican Firebush Subtype) and Fine Mosaic Subtype. In the GIS layer, stands of this type that contained a clear dominant were noted by including the dominant species in the Dom_Mod attribute field. However since most are annual early seral species, locations of these subtypes are not expected to remain constant. On the true color imagery this type had a highly variable signature ranging from dark green splotches (lush vegetation) to a mottled tan and grey (sparse, dry vegetation).

Range and Distribution

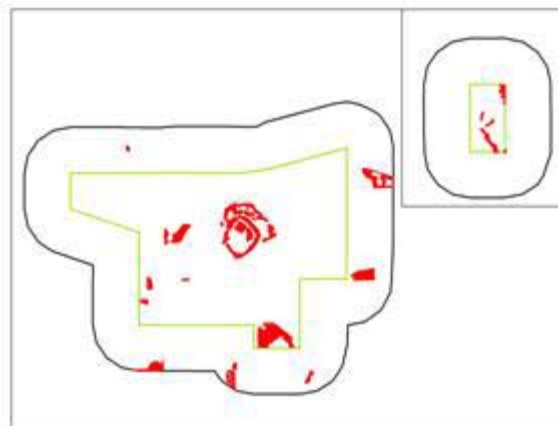
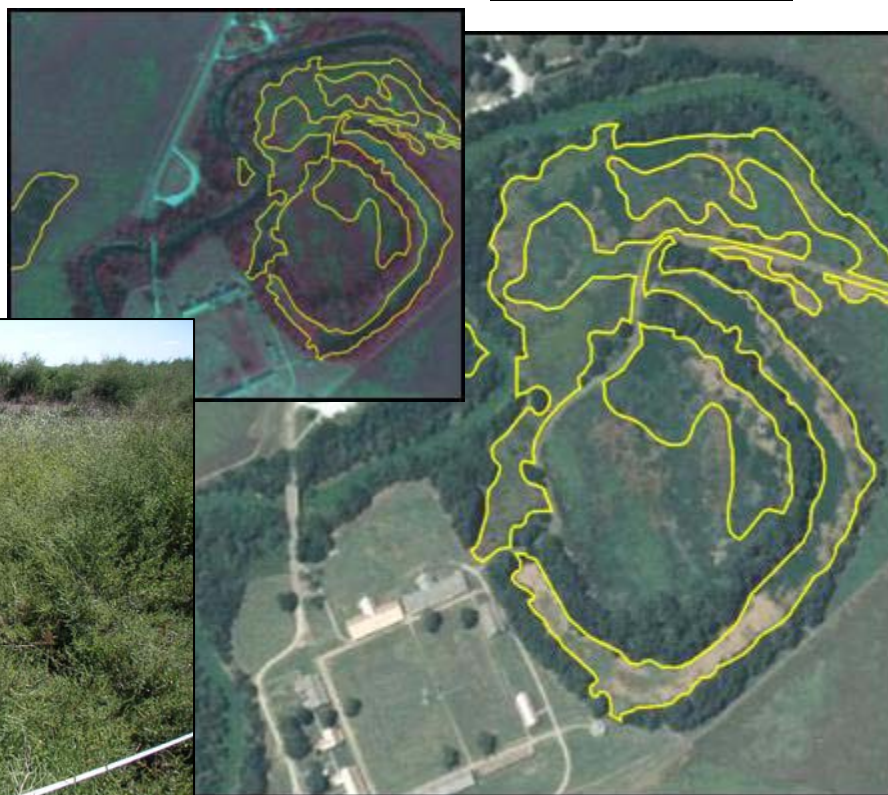


Photo Signature Examples

Representative Ground Photo



Old Field Weedy Herbaceous Vegetation

FORMATION CLASS	V	Herbaceous vegetation
FORMATION SUBCLASS	V.D	Annual graminoid or forb vegetation
FORMATION GROUP	V.D.2	Temperate or subpolar annual grass or forb vegetation
FORMATION SUBGROUP	V.A.2.N	Natural/semi-natural temperate or subpolar annual grasslands or forb vegetation

Vegetation Type First Described for Fort Larned National Historic Site

RANGE

Globally

This type has been defined for Fort Larned National Historic Site, but is presumed to be a widespread community of disturbed habitats. It would include the *Kochia scoparia/Bromus* spp. Early Seral Community as defined for Scotts Bluff National Monument.

Fort Larned National Historic Site

This community occurs in anthropogenically disturbed areas of the main unit of Fort Larned National Historic Site, including the historic dump site, the oxbow island, and the low-lying areas along the Pawnee River floodplain.

Three subtypes have been identified:

Conium maculatum Subtype (Poison Hemlock Subtype)

Kochia scoparia Subtype (Mexican Firebush Subtype)

Fine Mosaic Subtype

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Old Field Weedy Vegetation occurs on flat to moderate slopes of all aspects on soils that are primarily silty loams.

Conium maculatum Subtype is confined primarily to low-lying areas and can be found in temporarily flooded areas.

Kochia scoparia Subtype and Fine Mosaic Subtype occur throughout.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Conium maculatum Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Conium maculatum</i>

Kochia scoparia Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Kochia scoparia</i> , <i>Bromus japonicus</i>

Fine Mosaic Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Bromus japonicus</i> , <i>Rumex altissimus</i> , <i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> , <i>Bromus inermis</i> , <i>Kochia scoparia</i> , <i>Bromus tectorum</i> , <i>Andropogon gerardii</i> , <i>Agropyron smithii</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Conium maculatum Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Conium maculatum</i>

Kochia scoparia Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Kochia scoparia</i> , <i>Bromus japonicus</i>

Fine Mosaic Subtype

<u>Strata</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Bromus japonicus</i> , <i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> , <i>Bromus tectorum</i>

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Old Field Weedy Herbaceous vegetation is highly variable. Generally dominated by mid-height introduced grasses (0.5 m) and tall annual forbs (to 2 m), local patches may contain small early successional trees (such as *Gleditsia triacanthos*) and native grasses (including *Andropogon gerardii*, *Agropyron smithii*, and *Sporobolus asper*). Old Field Weedy Vegetation plots have in common a high percentage of annual species cover (> 30%) and a high percentage of forb cover relative to surrounding fields of smooth brome and restored grassland.

Within this community, monotypic stands of *Kochia scoparia* and *Conium maculatum* exist. Where these stands are large enough to map, they have been mapped as distinct subtypes. However, as both *Kochia* and *Conium* are annual early seral species, locations of these subtypes are not expected to remain constant.

MAP CODE: W1 (Weeds 1)

MAP UNITS

W1.C = *Conium* Subtype

W1.F = Fine Mosaic Subtype

W1.K = *Kochia* Subtype

PLOTS:

W1.C: BX

W1.F: AU, BQ, BR, BS, BT, BU, BY, DE

W1.K: AA, AV, BZ